

(c) means for contacting said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment of (a) with at least said sample of body fluid being screened and said antibody of (b), whereby said contacting means allow:

autoantibodies when present in said sample of body fluid being screened to bind to said first epitope region of said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment; and

said antibody of (b) to bind to said second epitope region of said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment; and

(d) means for monitoring binding of said autoantibodies and said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment, so as to provide an indication of the presence of autoantibodies to said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment in said sample of body fluid being screened.

*b1
con*
²
78. (Amended) A kit according to claim ¹77, wherein said antibody of (b) comprises a monoclonal antibody, or a recombinant antibody, or fragment thereof that binds to said second epitope region of said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment.

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82. (Amended) A kit according to claim ¹77, wherein said contacting means enables contact of said antibody of (b) with said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment prior to contact of said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment with said sample of body fluid being screened.

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b2
83. (Amended) A kit according to claim ¹77, wherein said contacting means enables contact of said antibody of (b) with said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment concurrent with or after contact of said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment with said sample of body fluid being screened.

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84. (Amended) A kit according to claim ¹77, which further comprises a competitor that binds with said first epitope of said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment

b2 cont
and whereby said contacting means enables contact of said competitor with said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment.

12 ~~88~~⁸ (Amended) A kit according to claim ~~84~~⁸, wherein said contacting means enables contact of said competitor with said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment after contact of said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment with said antibody of (b).

13 ~~88~~⁸ (Amended) A kit according to claim ~~84~~⁸, wherein said contacting means enables contact of said competitor with said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment before or concurrent with contact of said (i) TSH receptor or (ii) TSH receptor fragment with said antibody of (b).

b3 14 ~~90~~¹ (Amended) A kit according to claim ~~77~~¹, which further comprises a binding agent specific for said autoantibodies present in said sample of body fluid being screened and whereby said contacting means enables contact of said binding agent with said autoantibodies present in said sample of body fluid being screened.